FEEDBACK

TV REVIEW

WATERFRONT

Channel 4 showed a three-part drama on 24/25/26 September 1985 set during the lockout-strike of 'wharfies' (Australian for dockers or longshoremen) in the early 30's. The role of Communists is played up large in the series, but also strong is the theme of Italian immigrants fleeing the fascist Mussolini. The *Matteoti Club* is the social scene for Italians in the show.

What is not made clear is that the Club was founded by Francesco Carmagnola and other Anarchists in December 1927, in Spring Street. The anti-fascist centre became so popular it moved to larger premises in Victoria Street near the Trades Hall.

The first Italian anti-fascist paper *Il Risveglio* published 2 issues in Sydney, from July 1927 until it was prohibited by the Federal Government on August 23rd 1927. Its publishers, including Carmagnola went on to do leaflets in its place. . . From the *Matteoti Club*, a new paper *La Riscossa* was published from Jan. 1929 – Nov. 1932 which advocated physical resistance against the fascists whom it named in its columns. The *Club* distributed groceries and anti-fascist information including papers from France, Switzerland, the USA and Argentina. It held dances, meetings, had an eating space and a bocce (Italian bowls) area in the courtyard.

Actions complemented words and the Anarchists, armed, visited clubs, restaurants and boarding houses frequented by fascists provoking fights. The 'nit', the Fascist Party badge was ripped from the coats of members and the wearer beaten up. Italian State diplomats were sure of a rowdy reception at any public appearances and assault if under too small protection. . . The Italian Vice-Consul of Townsville, Mario Melano was beaten up and had his 'nit' removed and squashed on 26/12/31. The trial of Carmagnola and other anti-fascists on 11-12/2/32 brought the Anarchists freedom as the sympathetic waterside workers in the Jury found them not guilty!

In Feb. 1938 while distributing some leaflets aboard the cruiser *Raimondo Montecuccoli*, an anti-fascist thought by the Fascist crew to be Carmagnola was beaten up and thrown off. 2 days later 12,000 people marched to the Port of Melbourne to hear Carmagnola and other anti-fascists speak and to see an effigy of Mussolini burn.

The Australian government in its racist wisdom interned Italians regardless of their politics together. . . Thus on November 16 1942 Francesco Fantin, an Anarchist, was murdered by Fascists in the South Australian internment camp of Loveday.

The series, *Waterfront* was nonetheless exciting stuff, even bringing in the role of the women, who wanted to have an equal vote in the union as their husbands etc. to the fore as well as expose the racism that was to divide the workers. The usual behind the scenes manipulations by the politicians and employers and some loyal union Leaders was well done too!

@ Viewer.

BITS & PIECES

NEWS FROM CAMBRIDGE

The first issue of a major new work will be appearing in November 1985 – *The Cambridge Anarchist Encyclopaedia.* It is designed especially for students of anarchism and will primarily be aimed at universities, polytechnics and schools, but also libraries and will be available to the general public. It will be an assessment of anarchism mainly by activists in the movement, and will appear in serial, referenced and indexed and with subjects grouped. Production is by co-operation with Refract Books, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge CB1 2LG. Further particulars soon.

Second-hand books Wanted

Refract are aiming to restore their vanished finances and begin publishing again with local and postal sales of second hand books. Any donations of second hand books welcome – can pick up in the Cambridge or London areas, please drop a line to Refract at the above address.

MOLLY'S BOOKS

Molly's Books is a newly opened bookshop run on a non-profit, collective basis, stocking a wide range of literature on past and current struggles, revolts and insurrections against Capital, exploitation in all its guises and the encompassing social revolution – great are the disorders under heavens for this reason the situation bodes well. There is a discount on *all* books. Open Monday – Friday, 1 - 6 p.m. *287 Upper Street, N1 London.* Tube: Angel; Highbury & Islington.

WANTED

G reenpeace (London) are desperately seeking a new place where they can hold meetings, store their campaign material, and use as a postal address. They have very little income (i.e. want somewhere free or cheap), and need a new home before the end of October. *Greenpeace (London), 6 Endsleigh St, London WC1.*

FACTORIES, FIELDS & WORKSHOP & WORKSHOPS

a calendar for 1986.
screenprinted by the Anarchist Black Shadows. secure your copy £3.50 (inc P&P) from *Anarchist black shadows (PO/cheques) Old Stewards House, Northgate, Huddersfield HD1 1RL*
Also now available sheets of gummed stickers, nine per sheet single sheets for 17p stamp and Stamped Addressed Envelope or £1.30 for ten sheets.

HANDSWORTH CONTINUED

Finnegan (ex-NF area organiser); *David J. King* (convicted in '76 for arson and robbery, connections with KKK, ex-Column 88, now NF); *Peter Marriner* (aka Royston Kerr, ex-member Column 88, League of St George, also British Movement organiser for Birmingham as well as having connections to the BNP and NF; known to have infiltrated Labour Party as well as several trotskyist groups, such as 'workers fights', the International Socialists – he even ran an IS bookstall at South Birmingham Polytechnic; recently has been involved in the Self Help caucaus as well as the World Anti-Communist League); *Roderick L. Roberts* (as a Brown Aid member he safehoused German terrorist Manfred Reoder and hosted KKK leader David Duke; in '81 he was convicted on arson/arms charges; member of British Movement, NF and Column 88); *Harold Simcox* (NF member convicted on arms charges, now out of goal); and *Harvey Stock* (in 1981 he was sentenced to 2 years for arson, member of the BM and NF with KKK contacts).

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

PITWATCH No. 2 Sept/Oct 1985 25p. Contains the following articles: 4 page Notts. Ballot Special; We Are Women – We Are Strong – Women Against Pit Closures here to stay!; Sale on Now: Privatising the Pits and More. *Available at 20p for minimum of 5 copies from Pitwatch, 9 Poland Street, London W1.*

CIRA (Centre for International Research into Anarchism). Mostly in French, some in English. Contents: History of CIRA, Cinema and Anarchism; The Italian Anarchist Movement and more. . . *Send stamped SAE and donation to CIRA, Case Postale 51, CH-1211, Geneve 13, Suisse (Switzerland).*

LIBERTARIAN WORKERS BULLETIN Vol. 8 No. 1 May-October 1985. Price 50c (Aust). *Available from: Libertarian Workers for a Self-Managed Society, P.O. Box 20, Parkville 3052, Parkville 3052, Melbourne Victoria Australia.*

RED & BLACK Issue 2. Anarchist-Socialist paper of the North East. 30p. Articles include: Apartheid: Time to Make Britain's Profiteers Pay; NUM and the Forgotten Men; Music Collectives; MUT: Preparing a Sell-out; Fryston Trial; South Africa: Towards a Social Revolution? and more. . *Available from Red & Black, c/o 40 Garth Tce., York Y03 6DU.*

COUNTER INFORMATION No. 7 Sept/Oct 1985 Free. Newsletter from Scotland. This issue has a supplement on the miners strike. *Available from: Counter Information, Box 81, c/o 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh, Scotland. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope.*

LUCKY CHIMP

Readers might have missed a sort of all-time low from ITN's *News at Ten*. Maggie Thatcher visited London Zoo and met an elephant. Commented the newsreader 'and who'se got a tough skin, won't be pushed aside, and never forgets a policy?' He might have added 'and drops more shit than any other animal!' She also met a chimp, 'looking deep into Mrs. Thatcher's eyes, Noosi the chimp, chosen from the thousands of animals at the Zoo to meet the Prime Minister'. Actually monkeys are much more socially advanced than most Tory voters. . .

POISON PEN MOVES TO A NEW ADDRESS

Hastings Anarchist Group/ Poison Pen Collective have moved to a new address, please send all future communications to: *H.F.P. 14 Lower Park Road, Hastings, EAST SUSSEX*

LETTER

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed find money from sales of *Black Flag*. . . I thought the *Supplement* on the Miners Strike was brilliant, a good analysis and very positive in that it points out the direction in which the working class should go to defend itself from attacks by Capital and State. Syndicalist rank and file industrial organisation when linked with community resistance, culminating in the Social General Strike is the way forward and this was stressed in the *Supplement*. Good stuff.

Yours faithfully,
Paul, Manchester DAM

NB: Copies of the Supplement on the Miner's Strike are available for 10p plus 13p postage from BM Hurricane, London WC1N3XX

WHY NOT RIOT? From Front Page.

People came out of their houses on Sunday morning to survey the damage. Broken glass was everywhere. Most police kept off the streets and were content to drive around in cars and vans. Attacks on police began again from 5pm onwards. but this time the police were a lot more brutal and determined. Being fresh recruits, they seemed to be seeking further revenge on anyone in the streets, after the disorganisation of the night before. This didn't stop the police station from being attacked again. The police also effectively condoned off Brixton, isolating it from the surrounding areas. As As we go to press, things are relatively quiet but things could explode again at any time, in Brixton or elsewhere.

AS WE GO TO PRESS

The Bolivian Workers Central, the COB and its affiliates after two weeks on strike has been forced to return to work by the Bolivian Government which declared a State of Emergency for 90 days. Juan Lechin and other COB organisers have been arrested under the State's new powers. A co-ordinating group in exile has moved to Peru. The mineworkers were the last to go back to work at gunpoint.



No. 141

BLACK FLAG

30p

THE ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

7-10-'85

WHY NOT RIOT ? Part 2



Community versus police in Brixton September 28th 1985 *Photo: Johnny IGIZ*

When Mrs Cherry Groce was shot and nearly killed at home in an early morning raid by armed police thugs in Normandy Road, Brixton, everyones' minds turned to revenge and the possibility of more anti-police riots in Brixton. Ever since the riots in 1981, hatred for the racist police murderers has been justifiably high. The near-murder of Cherry Groce by police Inspector Douglas Lovelock finally demonstrated once and for all that the police in Brixton, despite their so-called 'community policing' image, are nothing but a gang of trained assassins.

Things started to move fast after the shooting, on Saturday September 28th By 1pm, a large group of angry people had gather outside the injured woman's home. At about 5pm at least 200 people marched up Brixton Road to the Police Station, in the centre of Brixton. The crowd jeered and taunted the few policemen arrogant enough to still be on the streets. The jeering and abuse directed against the police soon turned into bottles, bricks and petrol bombs direct at the police station!

As the crowd cheered every missile, every policewoman and policeman left the streets and entered the station. When some of them came out onto the roof, they had to make a hasty retreat under a hail of rocks and petrol bombs.

After about an hour's bombardment of the station, police in full riot gear (helmets, shields and truncheons) finally emerged and started lashing out indescriminately at the crowd. The crowd scattered and the riot began.

Looting was widespread, firstly around the police station then in all other areas of Brixton. Brixton High Street was heavily looted and many shop windows were smashed, including Barclays Bank. Dunnes menswear shop was completely gutted by fire, as was a furniture shop and a sub-post office in Tulse Hill. The police failed miserably to control the situation. The police helicopter, usually ever-present, was absent. The police dispersed crowds but couldn't stop them re-grouping.

For a while, people had control of the streets around the centre of Brixton, and were re-directing traffic. Barricades were made from cars that had been overturned and set on fire. At least one coach was used to block the police entry. Any police vehicles on the read were stoned.

The West Yorkshire Assistant Chief Constable John Domaille who has been appointed to 'investigate' the case had to retreat, seeing police vehicles under fire. He returned later and was told by friends and relatives of Cherry Groce that he should have tried 'investigating' early on Saturday morning.

Police on the streets were stoned and petrol-bombed. Some people were hurling bricks at police from the roofds of housing estates. Fires in several places were left to burn. In Railton Rd, a few barricades were quickly build only to be cleared quickly away by riot cops in vans and on foot. Police attempts to set up road blocks were not totally successful, and ordinary cars would drive into the area by accident, adding to the confusion.

On the negative side, muggings and two rapes were reported. One the positive side, black, white and asian youths, and older people, were all getting involved. Women were active throughout. Anyone with a camera was suspected of being a cop or a reporter, and was chased off. 121 Bookshop was untouched.

By 11pm most people had gathered outside Brixton Town Hall, while police were guarding most shops along the High Street. People jeered at each police vehicle as it sped by, until it was around 11.30pm then the stoning of vans began again. In response, the police went crazy, attacking the crowd, weilding truncheons wildly and beating anyone who was on the street. Running battles continued until the early hours of Sunday morning.

Continued on back page.

GREEK HUNGER STRIKER CLOSE TO DEATH

As we reported in *Black Flag* No. 139, Greek anarchist Victor Armanious went on hunger strike in prison on August 20th in protest against his arrest.

On June 1st a bank was fire-bombed in Athens and molotov-cocktails were thrown at two policemen in a car nearby. Victor was arrested a few days later and police claim he was involved but have little evidence to back this up. He is demanding to be released on bail but the Greek Council of Judges seem to be deliberately avoiding making a decision. over Victor's demands, putting his life further at risk.

As we go to press Victor Armanious is already close to death. By the time you read this he may well be dead.

Letters of protest and phone-calls to the Greek embassy in London were made in solidarity but the embassy refused to comment on the case and left the letters unanswered.

In Thessalonika, a bank was fire-bombed in solidarity with Victor Armanious a and there have been demonstrations on his behalf in Athens.

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HOME NEWS

SUPPORT

BLACK FLAG

EDITORIAL

To give readers a better understanding of the (many and varied) problems we face publishing 'Black Flag'. Here's a brief (easy-to-follow!) explanation of what's involved in producing a fortnightly newspaper. We hope that the more you know about 'Black Flag' the more likely you'll be to get involved in its production.

First of all, articles get written. They are written either by us or sent in by readers. We adapt articles from news-clippings, translate information from other countries, carry out research for longer articles, write theoretical articles etc. Readers could help us out here by doing the same and by sending in news of any local activities or by sending in news-clippings from local or international newspapers etc. (Thanks to all those who already do this!) We'd prefer articles to be typewritten but don't worry if you don't have a typewriter. Just write clearly! Readers could also help out by sending in relevant graphics with articles as this saves us running around trying to find some. People involved in publishing their own Anarchist paper are always welcome to exchange it for 'Black Flag' and please *if anyone who subscribes to 'Black Flag' from outside Britain is interested in becoming a 'Black Flag' correspondent* let us know.

The second stage in production is the editing. We hold at least one editorial meeting before each issue to sort out what we are going to publish and what we aren't going to print. We also go through the mail we receive and discuss new ideas, distribution, finances and whatever else has to be sorted out.

The third stage is type-setting the articles. We've just bought a type-setter and this should make the Flag more 'presentable'. (In fact we've been using it for the last few issues so don't expect any big changes in the look of the paper)

Stage four is laying out the type-set columns of print, running around for graphics and working out headlines. After a few years, practice even we have learnt a bit about design. We'd like to improve the look of Black Flag even more but we are restricted by lack of money so keep those donations coming!

Stage five is printing. Because we don't do this ourselves, it's fairly expensive. 'Black Flag' is a regular paper so we get regular printing bills. Yet another reason for donating!

Stage six is hand-folding the paper, inserting them into envelopes (for subscribers) and making up bundles of Black Flags for bookshops and those who street-sell. We do this every other Saturday at 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, Brixton, London SE24. (next distribution will be on Saturday October 19th. All welcome) Tel: 01-274 6655 2-6pm to confirm.

Well, that's about it. Like we've said before, 'Black Flag' depends wholely its readers' support. We'd like to go weekly next but without increased support now we could go monthly.

Black Flag Collective

CRIME MARCHES ON

South London Anarchists issued posters around the Brixton area appealing to muggers, saying that people round there have been mugged, bullied, raided by the police, assaulted, robbed and they had nothing much more to be taken away. . . why didn't muggers just take a bus and raid a rich district?

Since that notice appeared there has been a 'significant drop in crime figures' in Brixton, says the *Standard* (Sept 6th), which however attributed it to Scotland Yard's drive – not particularly noticed around Brixton – 'but statistics suggest that many of the muggers have merely been driven elsewhere'.

HOUSE WAS FOR SALE

The most expensive house in the world, Kenstead Hall in Hampstead changed hands in 1982 for £16 million.

LATE NEWS

Rioting has broken out in Toxteth, Live Liverpool, only weeks after the Police Station was attacked (see last *Black Flag*) As we go to press, riot police, are besieging the area, after the police station was stoned, cares set on fire and 200 youths gathered.

LETTER

Dear *Black Flag*,

Now you mention double-think in Lambeth Council bureaucrats, the Fair Rents officials are worth a few lines. Allegedly in existence to protect people from exorbitantly high rents, they are just as likely to use their powers to set the level of a rent to make people pay a HIGHER rent. They are as much a way of keeping rents up, as down. There are numerous cases where a housing co-op or particularly liberal landlord has set a rent which they want, only for a Fair Rent bureaucrat to take it upon his or herself to set the rent at a higher figure, against the wishes of the landlord/lady (let alone the tenant).

The reason for this was suggested by one Fair Rent Officer whom I met when she was inspecting a housing co-op flat and proposing a rent above that wanted by the co-op. who were the landlords. A lower rent, she said, would be 'unfair to the other tenants' in the street, meaning the Council, Housing Trust and private tenants. This reason is such nonsense, that one can only assume that the Council bureaucracy has decided that for co-op rents to be lower than Council rents might give people unhealthy ideas about forming co-ops and doing things for themselves instead of paying large sums of money to Council bureacrats to do them.

The Fair Rent bureaucracy considers co-op people to be free labour for the State. There was another case recently when a co-op member/tenant, part of whose tenancy agreement was to help in the running of the co-op, disputed a rent set by the Fair Rent Muggers and which was higher than what the landlords wanted. He thought that the Fair Rent rent should be reduced, because unlike other tenants he had to work to run the co-op, and his rent should be lower that that for comparable Council flats to reflect his efforts. The Appeals Committee swung into action – three middle-class folks in a chauffeur driven car arrived, inspected his flat and left – and set his rent slightly higher than the rent previously set by the Fair Rent Bureaucrat! Can't have people standing up for themselves and going unpunished, can we? Co-op members must consider themselves free labour for the Council of Lambeth while the Council is short of money.

Alright maybe this is all too paranoid, and really all the Fair Rent Bureaucrats are is another lot of bums who are only interested in their own salaries and their careers and bugger ordinary people . . . No doubt all this is true of other areas of Britain.

Best wishes from the Peeved Platoon

NAZI SCUM

The fascist campaign of arson attacks on the homes of Asians has moved to Handsworth, the inner city area of Birmingham and the scene of street rioting by local Afro-Caribbean, Asian and white youths less than a month ago. The latest case of arson ttok place three weeks before the rioting during a period of intense racist activity by several local nazi groups, including local branches of the National Front and the British National Party (who recently held a secret meeting in Handsworth – see 'Police Aid By Racist Vigilante Groups'). The case in question involved the Sigh family: a petrol bomb was hurled through their front door and the family inside (two women and two girls upstairs and two brothers downstiars) barely escaped with their lives. The police at the local Thornhill police station later put out a statement denying that the attack was racist, a notion that local NF organiser, Normal Tomkinson, would probably disagree with!

Meanwhile in East London there has been no move against the local nazi community in the wake of the recent arson attacks on Asians in Leyton and in Bow. The Leyton attack left two people injured and the one in Bow almost resulted in the death of nine Asians. Other similar attacks have taken place in Bethnal Green and Newham. In the latter (and in Redbridge) Halal butcher shops have been the subject of bombings (fascists jumping on the animal liberation bandwagon, perhaps?) One particular property was totally blown apart. Death threats (similar to those sent to African National Congress exiles and to the Kings Cross Women's Centre) have been received by Asian families in East London districts; the threats were all signed by 'The Exterminators'.

eavesdroppings

BRITISH TELECOM TELEPHONE EXCHANGES – SECURITY!

There are now highly sophisticated security measures at all B.T. telephone exchanges. For example entry is only possible by magnetic cards and coded numbers, via a seven foot high turnstile. The buildings are siege proof, are monitored by close circuit video cameras, there are light sensitive detectors around the perimeter and the windows are wired with alarms triggered by bricks/stones.

The basement houses a nuclear bunker complete with non-electronic equipment and a limited water supply.

Each exchange has its own generator and two back up jet engines to serve in the case of a power failure.

Our local exchange is linked by an underground tunnel to the police headquarters, this arrangement is probably widespread.

Apart from the details outlined, what is interesting is that payment came from the Home Office prior to privatisation, for these 'improvements'. Making public utility buildings safe against the threat of rioting/civil disorder was/is an obvious government priority but in the case of British Telecom also made it a far more attractive proposition for private investors.

The smooth operators.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM

Q: What is really meant by – why do Anarchists object to – elitists, reformists, bureaucrats?

A: Bureaucrats govern by virtue of their office – somebody who is a clerk or secretary is not a bureaucrat unless because they are in that position, they gain power over other people.

There is nothing to be said against the people who get reforms – there is a hell of a lot needs reforming – but what the Anarchists condemn is people who get power by virtue of making certain reforms or seek power by promising them.

Similarly, any form of action – whether of a military or scientific nature – throws up an elite, in that some people are capable of something that other people aren't. This neither makes them worse or better. If howver they hold up their achievement (real or exaggerated) to get, or seek, some personal power they are elitists, and as such are opposed by Anarchists. Nationalist movements for instance cash in on their 'Old Guard' (or the other way around) with six months of action and sixty years of glorifying in it.

All these terms are misused by those who oppose action, however, as abuse words for anyone who organise is a Bureaucrat, or is into struggle is elitist or achieves results is reformist! Surprising how many want alibis for their inaction. . .

Cot Deaths A Doctor writes



AS A Doctor, I am often asked "Doctor how do you explain the unexpected death of young children in their beds?"

Well, what sometimes happens is that a large policeman carrying a gun (or *Oldbillus triggerhappiensis* as he is known to the medical profession) bursts into the room and starts shooting at everything in sight.

If you are at all worried about your policemen, there's very little you can do about it.

© *A. Doctor 1985.*

INDUSTRIAL

QUEENSLAND - Industrial Action



On Tuesday 20th August, a stop-work rally of 13,000 Brisbane workers was held, giving the go ahead for continuing industrial action against the Queensland Government's anti-union laws.

About 10,000 people attended meetings in other towns in the state. A resolution calling for re-instatement of the 1,000 sacked South East Queensland Electricity Board workers, was passed unanimously in Brisbane and overwhlemingly in other towns.

The Brisbane rally was addressed by various trade union officials, including a land-line connection which relayed a speech by the secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, made in Canberra. The transmission was delayed by technical hitches , while Telecom workers rallied at the meeting.

After the rally, 300 people marched to Parliament House, due to officially open that day of the Third Session of its 44th parliamentary session.

About 10 minutes after the march arrived outside Parliament House, police pounced and arrested 102 people, which included chasing people into the nearby Botanical Gardens, and Institute of Technology.

The Premier, 'Sir' Joh Bjelke Petersen, dozens of cabinet ministers, dignitaries and guests watched from the Parliament House balcony as vicious arrests were made by 200 police, in an attempt to get people off the streets and away from Parliament.

Later the Premier called the arrested people 'a handful of poor little misguided people who you wouldn't want to shine your shoes' and said in reference to union activists 'If I've got one mission in life it's a clean a lot of this rubbish up'.

Railways, Council services, Telecommunications. Breweries. Hotels and Air services were affected to varying degrees by stoppages of 24 hours and longer. Inspiring reports of Telecom workers cutting services to selected Government buildings and electricity workers refusing to supply or maintain Government buildings are filtering through.

Households are refusing to pay their electricity bills in solidarity with the sacked SEQEB workers, and have had their electricity supply cut off in a number of cases. There are plans for selective industrial action in the near future. Donations and support for the sacked workers can be sent to: *Electrical Trades Union, Trades Hall, Edward Street, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.*

STRIKE CONTINUES

News has come from La Paz that Bolivia was virtually paralysed by a 48-hr union strike recently called in protest at harsh economic measures announced by the month-old conservative Government. The Government ordered police and armed forces on alert and warned that it would not allow disorderly acts.

The strike closed mines, many industries and businesses, public transport, petrol sales, government offices and the Central Bank. The Bolivian Workers Central (COB), which represents every major labour group, instructed members to organise marches and threatened an indefinite general strike if the Government did not revise its anti-inflation programme.

The strike, the first major confrontation between the Government and the unions, grows out of what are seen as the harshest economic measures in recent Bolivian history.

The Government had recently floated the peso, effectively devaluing it by 95 per cent, frozen salaries until December, reorganised state companies, raised petrol prices tenfold, authorised the dismissal of workers at state and private companies and removed price supports from food.

The Government has also declared it would declare illegal any strike and immediately mobilise police and armed forces.

COB CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA

"LA EMANCIPACION DE LOS TRABAJADORES SERA OBRA DE ELLOS MISMOS"

Liverpool - The Saga Continues

The threatened strike by council employees in Liverpool was called off by the Joint Shop Stewards Committee.

Some employees were clearly unsure whether the strike was in support of the council and its stand against Government cut-backs, or against the council's decision to 'temporarily suspend' its 31,000 employees from December 31 – the date from which there will be no more money available to pay wages.

If a strike ever materialises, or if services come to a standstill as a result of the rate being held at the current level, then troops are to be sent in to keep some of the 'essential services' going. The Government has also admitted that under those circumstances the inmates of detention centres and reform schools will be moved to the Isle of Man where special emergency centres have been set up. These centres have, in fact, been prepared as emergency detention centres for some time in case of strikes or widespread rioting. The actual arrangements whereby troops can take over the running of detention centres was made possible by two pieces of legislation, namely the Military Aid For Civil Ministers agreement (put together under the Heath government and ratified under Callaghan), and a 'top-up' reserve plan brought in un under Callaghan in 1979.

Should troops be sent into Liverpool, they will be utilised on the whole to run municipal services such as collecting garbage, etc; although if civil distrubances break out the troops will be empowered under the Callaghan legislation to take over the detention centres and run them as internment camps.

However things turn out – strike, dismissals or cut-backs – the people of Liverpool will be the losers. In the short-term the only foreseeable solution to the extremes of Tory centralised power on the one hand, and Militant Tendency municipal socialism (which thrives upon bureaucracy and welfarism) on the other, is for the withdrawal of all local authority funding from 'services' clearly not needed by anyone except the statists – 'services' such as the local funding, through the rates, of the police, or the funding of the detention centres, two examples out of many. Further, the council's capital investments could be liquidated and redistributed to the neighbourhoods. In the longer-term only revolutionary warfare will have any effect on the redistribution of wealth nationally and only the dissolution of centralised localised bureaucracies can affect the distribution of power.

NB. The council has begun the process to send out redundancy notices – NALGO (local government white collar workers) members have refused to handle them and warn that the Council will have to resort to using scab labour if they are to be issued. At the same time it is reported that any worker who goes out on strike during the redundancy notice period (3 months prior to the dismissal date) – and several unions are threatening strike action either for *or* against the Council's action – then those workers will legally forfeit all their redundancy payments that are due. The saga continues. . .

SPAIN

Pit strike in protest

Some 25,000 coal miners in the northern Spanish region of Asturias went on strike recently, claiming that the conditions in Spanish mines are the most dangerous in Europe. The strike coincided with the funeral of 36-year old Jose Antonio Paniagua, who died in a rock fall, bringing the death toll in the Asturias mines to 30 this year, seven of them this month (August). Another 30 miners have died in other Spanish pits this years.



MINERS NEWS

The Coal Board has announced that the Kent Area coal field will close if productivity in the area is not doubled. Already since the 1984/85 strike around one-third of the Kent Area labour force has been cut as a result of dismissals and redundancies.

The Coal Board has also announced that the national production target has been cut from 110 tonnes to 90m tonnes and that in two years time all investment in the coal fields will cease. National Union of Mineworkers estimates shows that these cuts together with the revised production targets will mean a loss of a further 50,000 jobs, NCB projections show that once investment is ceased, to break even productivity will need to increase by 50% nationally. The NCB intends, therefore, to cease work on all, 'uneconomic' pits and to shift emphasis in the long term to open-cast ming of anthracite.

According to EEC estimates, the ceasing of investment will also mean the estimated closure of all pits in the following areas: Scotland, the North East, Lancashire, South Wales and Kent. Similar measures to be adopted by other EEC countries, as part of a concerted EEC policy on cut-backs in Coal investment, will result in the loss of about *500,000* coal mining jobs throughout Britain, West Germany, Spain, France and Belgium by the end of the decade. The policy will be in the future to buy in cheaper (based on current deflated prices) imports from countries such as Poland, Columbia and South Africa.

COSA STAYS WITH NUM

The 15,000 strong white-collar section of the NUM, COSA which pressed for a national ballot throughout the one-year miner's strike recently changed it's rules to protect it s independence. COSA took legal advice on whether a strike could be called without a ballot and was told no. The scab 'Union of Democratic Mineworkers (sic.)' was rejected by the COSA members. The scabs have of course been likened to the Spencer union, also in the Notts area. The Rank & File Miner called up a quote from A.J.Cook the President during the General Strike: *'born in the colliery office, supplied with Tory beer and fed in the Tory clubs'*. A bosses union.

KERESLEY STRIKE

At Keresley colliery, Coventry, a 24 hour strike in support of miners sacked during the year long pit strike stopped production on 17/9/85.

INTERNATIONAL

Circular From The International Workers Association

AGAINST REPRESSION & DEATH SENTENCE

To all IWA groups and sections!
To all Anarchist militants!
To all workers!

FRIENDS: In Japan three men are awaiting the Supreme Court decision to confirm their death sentences in connection with acts of terrorism. One of the three is merely suspected of sympathising with the actions of an armed group that confronted the authoritarian system.

The other two sentenced to death, Masashi Daidoji and Toshiaki Kataoka, are members of the East Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front and their crime was to conspire to kill the Japanese Emperor — the National God — who they felt was responsible for the genocide involving ten million people from the Asiatic towns invaded by the Japanese military forces during World War II. They also wanted to attack the multi-nationals in Japan who exploited workers all over the Far-East and to fight for the independence of all small nations oppressed by Japanese imperialism; like the island of Ainumoshiri whose main Town Hall was bombed, resulting in the present trial. The third condemned man, Katsuhisa Omori, despite his innocence, was dragged through the Courts mainly due to his Anarchist beliefs.

As well as these three men, Yoshimasa Kurokawa was condemned to life imprisonment, Hisaichi Ugajin to eighteen years imprisonment, and Mariko Arai, a woman, to eight years in prison.

The Omori case has been publicised in detail in the Anarchist press throughout the world. We, who oppose terrorist methods and disown them when innocent people are killed, support those who fight imperialism in all its forms — financial militaristic or religous — and who fight the authoritarian terrorism of all states who are involved in exploitation.

At the beginning of Autumn the Japanese Supreme Court will make its final decision and in view of this country's extremely severe Laws, we think any comution of the death sentences unlikely, especially for Omori. As a result of requests from the Japanese section of the IWA, the Workers Solidarity Movement, we, the IWA Secretariat, urge all workers and Anarchists in every country to help those condemned by imperialism; by picketing Japanese Embassies and Consulates, by sending letters to the imperialist authorities and the defence committees of the accused:

Omori's Support Committee in Tokyo
35 Chitose P.O. Box.
Setagaya - Ku. Tokyo. JAPAN

Prime Minister Nakasone Yasuhiro
Nagata - Cho 2 - 3
Chiyoda - Ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

Supreme Court
Hayabusa - Cho 4 - 2,
Chiyoda - Ku. Tokyo, JAPAN

FRIENDS! The Asian people's struggle for better living standards and Human Rights is very hard.

Japan is suffering from a very strong neo-imperialism — according to the WSM-IWA and its reports — *Workers can't stop the capitalist onslaught and they are fighting back with great difficulty.*

FRIENDS! The Asiatic workers struggle against economic imperialism, like the Latin-American struggle against colonialism and the International Monetary Fund, the black workers struggle against apartheid in South Africa, like the struggle against unemployment in the industrialised countries, is an international struggle involving all workers. Support each other!

Libertarian greetings,
Fidel Gorron Canoyra
(IWA General Secretary)

Condemned to prison:
YOSHIMASA KUROKAWA,
HISAICHI UGAJIN
MARIKO ARAI

Condemned to death:
KATSUHISA OMORI,
MASASHI DAIDOJI
TOSHIAKI KATAOKA

ANARCHY IN JAPAN

Anarchists in Japan recently held a national conference in the city of Hiroshima on August 6th, 1985, the 40th Anniversary of the day that city was devastated with a US atomic bomb. One aim of the meeting was to build up a more effective, co-ordinated movement of Anarchists in Japan. The case of Katsuhisa Omori, an Anarchist sentenced to death in 1983 for a bombing he never committed, was also discussed in detail.



THE U.S. FACE OF FASCISM

The trial against eleven neo-nazis belonging to the para-military 'order' group (see *Black Flag* No.133) began on September 9th in Seattle. Assistant Attorney Bob Ward opened the trial with a three hour recitation of crimes attributed to the Order including two murders, bank robberies, a theatre bombing and three armoured car robberies. The trial is expected to last three months.

The Order, also known as 'White American Bastion' and 'Bruder Schweigen' (silent brotherhood) was started in 1983 as a militant off-shoot of the 'Church of Jesus Christ Christian'.

In Florida, seven members of another Nazi group, the 'White Patriots Party', were arrested on charges of criminal conspiracy in July in connection with attacks on black people. Two of the nazis arrested were prison officers at Glades Correctional Institution.

According to *Bayou La Rose* (a US anti-authoritarian paper) several prisoners in a Texas prison live in daily terror of death at hands of an 'Aryan Brotherhood' gang of inmates. Charles Young was stabbed thirty-four times and left for dead and Michael Williams barely escaped attack by jamming his door shut during the same incident.

Please write letters demanding safety for these two prisoners and others from the Aryan Brotherhood — Nazis.
Write letters to: *Governor Mark White, Office of the Governor, State Capital, Austin Texas 78711* or *The Director, Texas Board of Corrections, P.O. Box 2910, Austin Texas 78769.* Let them know that they are responsible for their safety.

Write letters of support to: *Michael G. Williams, No. 317838, Darrington Unit, Rt. 3, Box 59, Rosharon, Texas 77583. Charles R. Young, No. 354692, Rt. 1., Box 1, Wynne State Farm, Huntsville, Texas 77349.*

ATTACK ON ANARCHIST BOOKSHOP

LATE NEWS: The anarchist bookstore in San Francisco, Bound Together Books, had its window kicked in and a worker assaulted by a small group of 'skins'. The past year has seen an increasing problem with skin-heads in the Haight-Ashbury district with many of them openly espousing a Nazi-tinged brand of patriotism.

Sources: BK and Bayou La Rose

GAL STRIKES AGAIN

The 'Grupos Antiterroristas de Liberacion' — a fascist death squad examined in detail in the last issue of *Black Flag* — continued their 'dirty war' against the Basque nationalist group ETA last week with the assassination of four more ETA members, killed in a bar in Bayonne (Southern France) on September 25th.

A 24-hour strike in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa was staged two days later in protest at the killings and in protest against police and state collaboration with GAL. Two Frenchmen have been arrested and charged with the attack.

Meanwhile *The Guardian* continues to mix fact with fantasy by claiming recently that the Spanish 'Anti-Capitalist Autonomous Commandos' armed group is an 'anarchist off-shoot of ETA'. It is in fact a nationalist organisation.

SMASH FASCISM !

FAF APPEAL

The French Anarchist Federation sends 180 copies of its paper *Le Monde Libertaire* free, to 25 countries . . . To improve the contents of their paper in its international information they are asking for correspondence from all over the world. They want frequent publications (yes we send them *Black Flag*) regular news about what is happening in your country. If there is no information concerning the anarchist or anarcho-syndicalist movements' actions then anarchist s'point of view on the important events of political, social or economic life are welcome.

By the way don't forget *BF, the Anarchist fortnightly* too!

Federation Anarchiste Francaise
Relations Internationales,
145, rue Amelot 75011 PARIS
tel. 33.1.805.34.08.

SOUTH AFRICA
45 BOTHA CONSCRIPTS AWOL

45 soldiers attached to South Africa's No 1 parachute battalion have gone Absent With Out Leave from their camp near Bloemfontein. They are young men who have undergone compulsory national service varying from six months to two years. Complaints about food and camp conditions as well as resentment over their current duties in helping the police curb black township unrest is assumed to be responsible.

The camp command is tight-lipped and the Government has refused to comment.

MEXICO
GOVERNMENT HOT—SEAT

Agua Prieta City Hall was burned down by a crowd to stop the new Mayor from taking office, they prevented firemen from tackling the blaze.

During the earthquake clean-up attempt the Mexican Army has been conspicuous by its absence and the locals have found there is only themselves to rely on. The cops of course are busy protecting property from looters instead of helping get people out from under it. Truly remarkable was the case of babies who survived 5 days in the rubble of a hospital. Rumours that the Catholic Church was going to sell up its properties and treasury for relief work are unfounded.

NEW CALEDONIA

Melanesian separatists of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front won three of four regions in local elections, assuring them of the Presidency.

MULTINATIONALLAND
NESTLE'S EAT IT UP

The Swiss based food conglomerate has expanded in North America with it's three billion dollar acquisition of the US firm Carnation. Nestle takeovers in 1984 of 10 other food and medical companies boosted annual sales by a third to $14 billion!

SUBSCRIBE TO BLACK FLAG!

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

ONE DAY AFTER ANOTHER



According to some legal experts, some perhaps sincere, prison should not be merely a means to sanction a prisoner, it should also be a contributing factor to their reinsertion into society.

Now when we say 'reinsertion', we imply, in fact that the prisoner was at one time 'inserted' in society before their imprisonment. This is patently false, as the only reason for which they were imprisoned was precisely that they were not so 'integrated' — as shown by their failure to obey the Law. Whatever the crime involved — theft, murder, fraud — it shows a certain unease in the face of a world that did not offer the prisoner all that they had a right to expect.

A crime may perhaps be defined as an attempt to improve one's situation, an attempt carried out at the apparent expense of the collectivity/society.

Rather than punish those who contravene the established order, it would surely be more intelligent to uncover the reason for this social breakdown and apply a cure; to modify the basis of the social order.

All this applies only vis a vis the theory that incarceration is necessary as a protection rather than to the theory that prison serves as an example to keep the population in line. If both these ideas find ready exponents, we should recognise that the second is more logical — a cold logic, cruel to be sure — the logic of repression and detention.

The prisoner who was not inserted in society before their arrest will be even less so when freed; if they try to integrate themselves they will fail.

In fact , arrest is much more than simply being deprived of one's liberty. If it was merely this, we would easily conceive of 'house arrest', which does exist in certain countries for various 'crimes'. In Italy for example, this form of detention is used to keep down the prison populations. It restrains freedom without the harassment of warder control.

Of course, this is every bit as unacceptable as prison itself, and I only mention it here to expose the other very important characteristic of incarceration :the depersonalisation of the prisoner. Behind bars, they lose their identity, they become a number, their very life is suspended.

In prison, you are reduced to being a child. All the prisoners actions are adapted to the monotonous rythm of prison time. You get up when the cell doors are opened. There is no decision to be made, the discipline is imposed.

Breakfast, meals, walks, etc — you can fold your arms passively and you just consume. Your time is no longer your own. You are stripped of all power over yourself. Even for something as simple as a shower, it is not you who decide. Once a week, twice a week in the best of cases you have the right to a few seconds of hot water, but your hygiene is no longer a personal matter, prison has dispossessed you of your body.

The coming and going of mail is often a source of irritation, even anger. Prison authorities use it like certain parents use sweets to keep their children in line. Generally (at least in Fresne prison) a guard gives you your mail at noon and at night. Pick up is at waking time. The guard then gives it to a censor to read, all intimacy is lost. Only letters to a judge or lawyer may be sealed by the prisoner. This can lead to delays of several days before the letters go out. No point in asking why, the reply is always the same :too much work. The mail serves as a hostage to the prison authorities. As to the mail that comes in they can do as they please. It is all read. Some newspapers don't get through. Sometimes you get them upon your release, or when you are transferred.

It is hard to imagine the importance of the mail if you have never actually been in prison. It is a link to the outside world because it is personal. Radio and newspapers are important but they can't replace the emotion, the sheer joy of a letter. The administration knows this well, and they therefore possess particularly disgusting means of putting pressure on people, by slowing their flow of mail to a trickle.

All control over his daily life is thus taken away from this prisoner. It is only through the constant struggle of the prisoners against the prison authorities; they they can get some relief from this pressure.

You have to fight back every day when you are in prison. You'll be destroyed if you give up, drowned slowly but surely. Habit is so much more important here than on the outside. Just changing your cell can be torture, and any change in routine, no matter how small, can be painful, as it forces you to confront your own situation, and the feeling of powerlessness that results is agonising.

You must struggle for everything, first and foremost for control of yourself. You have to build your own discipline, give yourself tasks and carry them out fully. Try to reappropraite yourself by any, and all, means that you can. Each time you let your combativity slacken, prison will crush you a little bit more. Death always comes through suffocation, when you're behind bars.

Many prisoners call the guards 'chief'. This is the last thing you should do.

Do not forget that power is very often not taken but given. If someone abandons their power, someone else will seize it.

In the hell of prison, like elsewhere, when some are resigned, others abuse; it is with the consent of some that others abuse.

Thierry Maricourt

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thierry Maricourt denounced French Military Service, in writing and action. He, like others his age, was due to be conscripted but he refused. He attempted to give himself up with 150 people present but he was refused as the police had no mandate to arrest him. He was later secretly arrested. A Support Committee was set up, a couple of demonstrations were held, leaflets distributed and a petition circulated. Mari court was then transferred. The movement had the support of the Communist Mayor of Amiens. The Socialist members of Parliament were of course silent as were the unions. The United Socialist Party did support the movement. Thierry Maricourt has now been freed.

FROM A SPANISH PRISON

Dear Black Flag,

I'm writing this letter to let you know that Guillermo Marin Gaitan (anarchist) was transferred last week to Segovia prison. You were sending him the paper *Black Flag* and I would appreciate it if you would continue to send it here, but in my name now of course.

In *Black Flag No 131 (April '85)* you mentioned that I was released from prison after 8 months on remand. Before that I had already spent 3 years in prison, from October '80 to July '83, after being sentenced to a 4 year stretch by the Madrid Courts. You mentioned my name at that time too and since then I've had the pleasure of receiving *Black Flag* on and off as well as a great magazine called *Cienfuegos*, and letters from comrades in various countries whose solidarity has deeply touched me.

Well, I'll stop going on about my prison history now as I imagine that you will be very surprised to see this letter comes from Carabanchel prison. . . once again! In fact I was only free for two months when I was re-arrested in an anti-anarchist campaign by the *Grup 4* (equivalent to the British Special Branch). I was arrested along with 5 other comrades while 2 others were arrested in Almeria (Andalucia). After 5 days of interrogation under the anti-terrorist laws we found ourselves back in the Madrid Court of Justice. The police, so used to framing people, didn't let us down this time and accused us of belonging to an armed organisation called *Militantes Anarquistas*, of robbing banks, and organising an escape attempt for 2 comrades in Almeria prison. We denied each and every accusation. At the police-station we refused to make a statement, and we refused to make one in the Court-house too. The only evidence the police have is in their own imaginations and in their determination to confuse reality with their desires. Hopefully we won't be in prison for much longer although knowing the peculiar application of the Law by the police and judges when it comes to Anarchists, not many would bet on a quick acquittal.

Whatever happens, we are as convinced as always that this Machiavellian invention called prison will never crush us.

Well, that's about it for now. We hope to hear from you soon and wish you all the best in your courageous propaganda work for the Anarchist ideal.

Best greetings on behalf of the Anarchist prisoners in Carabanchel.

Salud y Anarquia
Alan Drogou Cadec
(CNT-AIT Kitchen workers union, Barcelona)

Carabanchel Prison:
Apartado de Correos 27007,
Madrid 280-25, SPAIN

CNT AIT

VANCOUVER 5 UPDATE

The latest news from the Vancouver 5 Support Group is that Julie Belmas, Ann Hensen and Brent Taylor are waiting for their sentence appeals. Julie's is due to start at any time, and the other appeals will start later in the year. The support group is being harassed by the police. Five of them are being charged in connection with a Stop the City demonstration in April. More information on the Vancouver 5 is available from: *Free the Five Defense Group, P.O. Box 48296, Bentall Station, Vancouver BC V7X 1A1 Canada.*

STUNNING NEWS

The US Federal Marshal Service has been issuing 50,000 volt electric prods to its' district officers throughout the USA for 'defensive purposes only', ie. to subdue 'unruly prisoners'. They were first issued earlier this year. The prod is only one step removed from the sort of device commonly used by Junta police and mil military in Latin American States. Already in the USA there have been cases reported of the prod used as a torture weapon.

SOURCE: Overthrow

TO CLASS WAR AND ANARCHIST PRISONERS

Apart from *Black Flag*, all Direct Action Movement pamphlets are available to prisoners on request.

Current titles include 'Strike Action', 'Anarchism and Feminism'; 'The IWA Today'; 'Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution' and 'Tell us Lies about the Miners'.

All pamphlets are available from: *South London DAM-IWA, c/o 121 Railton Road, London SE24.*

DAM-IWA



support class struggle prisoners

FRANKFURT & BEYOND!

GUNTER SARE

Gunter Sare, a 36 year old unemployed mechanic and voluntary youth worker was standing, isolated on the corner of a street junction when a police water cannon water jet knocked him over. He stood up, looking into the vehicles head lights when he was run over trying to escape its path. The 28 year old cop driver has not even been suspended from duty! People who tried to aid Gunter were chased off by police, the ambulances were prevented by the cops from getting to him for 20 minutes. He bled to death from chest and head injuries for lack of medical treatment.

Banks, insurance companies, airline offices, luxury shops and cars were all smashed in West Germany's commercial capital. The cops blamed anarchists and said it was 'professional troublemakers' much as they have with the Brixton anti-cop uprising. The anarcho-syndicalists of the Frei Arbeiter Union (IAA) in Frankfurt together with other locals defied the Mayor's ban on demonstrations and took on the police for the following nights. . . .

there were 350 arrests in all. The West German Embassy in Copenhagen was attacked in solidarity with the rioters.

As we go to press there have been anti-cop riots with barricading of burning cars in Peckham (a stone's throw from Brixton) and Toxteth in Liverpool, the latter sparked off by a Magistrate's refusal to bail four locals. And, in the US town of Ashburn, Georgia, locals rioted when a black prisoner trying to escape police custody was shot dead by cops.

Also, numerous acts of sabotage against South African Business for the September 30th Smash SA Business Day so more details as they come to hand in the next issue. Remember it's never too late to hate the State and fan the flames of discontent. . .

BEHIND THE NEWS

POLICE AIDED BY RACISTS

A White racist vigilante group is operating in the Handsworth area — the scene of rioting only three weeks back. The group announced itself only days before the rioting began.

Our enquiries have revealed that there is a strong possibility that this group was either set up or is infiltrated by known fascists and that furthermore it was directly responsible for the firebombing of the Villa Rd 'bingo hall' (a drugs dealing and blues centre), one of the alleged 'flash-points' in the lead up to the riots. The rioting itself, needless to say, was an explosion of anger against the worsening of local conditions, as much as a reaction against increased policing.

According to the *New Statesman*, the area involving the Villa Rd pub and the disused bingo-hall opposite : *'has recently been in the news because of complaints from a 'residents association' (sic) about drug dealing outside the pub. A public meeting ended in uproar last Thursday when a Black leader was threatened by White residents.'* The Thursday meeting mentioned took place only four days before the riots; the complaints also related to the bingo hall and a lot of aggravation about the hall and the activities going on inside had been drummed up in the local press in the weeks preceding the riot. After the riots the national press made no mention of the controversies surrounding the bingo hall, although there was a brief reference made in the *Guardian* which stated that: *'according to the Defence Committee for those arrested in the riot, a white vigilante group promised to burn down a bingo hall at Villa Rd in Handsworth if the council allowed it to become a 'drugs den'.'*

In due course *Black Flag* made its own direct contact with the mainly Afro-Caribbean dominated Birmingham Community Relations Council. Indeed The CRC confirmed the allegations made by the Handsworth Defence Group and stated that, to their knowledge, local Black opinion in Handsworth asserts that the bingo hall fire was *not* started by Blacks but by Whites from outside the area. The CRC also explained that at the Residents Committee meeting (referred to above), members of the committee issued racist abuse to local Black representatives and threatened that if the police did not forcibly close down the bingo hall for good, then they would themselves form a vigilante group and take 'direct action'. We ask could the bingo hall have been arsoned in reaction to the successful multi-racial carnival staged only one day before?(only a few years back an alleged expose revealed that fascists were intending to use the Notting Hill Carnival in London as the setting for a blood-bath).

NB. *Black Flag* readers will remember that White 'tenants associations' were set up around 6 months back in certain parts of London, notably Tower Hamlets, Clapham and Stockwell Park, the latter district being on the fringe of Brixton's 'front line' another known centre for dealing and blues clubs. These 'tenants associations' (some going under the name of an organisation calling itself 'Fairplay') were later connected to the National Front. Their tactics were to use the local press to stir up racial hatred against Blacks and also to work with the police, via the 'community policing' aka 'neighbourhood watch' schemes, to stimulate pressure for increased policing. The Stockwell Park group for example, used a Labour-controlled Police Liason Committee meeting to voice racial abuse and to call for the re-introduction of the Special Patrol Group into the area. On this same estate recently two White youths terrorised an Asian family of squatters, robbing and beating them, finally setting fire to the flat with the family inside. Luckily the squatters survived and because of the fire the cops finally turned up. . .

More recently the NF have openly pro-claimed a campaign of exploiting anti-drug sentiments by threatening to use 'direct action' against pushers, etc. In practice this campaign has amounted to little more than a crude exercise in racist propaganda; the only 'direct action' in recent weeks targetted against the ethnic communities has mainly involved the ever-increasing violence and murder (often by arson) of Asians in East London and elsewhere such as Luton. In Handsworth it can be safely assumed that the fascist activists and 'sleepers' are involved in some of the tenants groups and in groups working with the police. We do know, for example, that exactly six days after the Handsworth riot, *a secret meeting of the British National Party took place in Handsworth* itself to formulate future tactics.

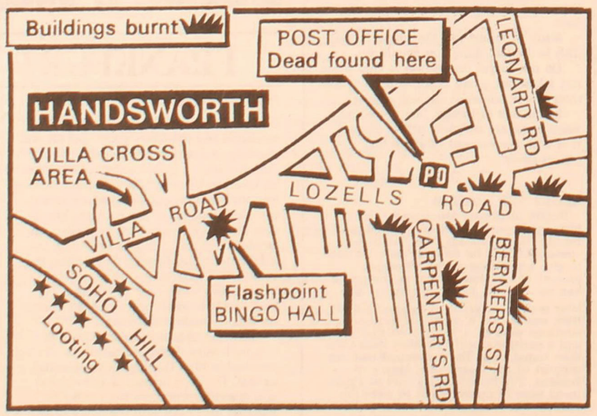
Our contact with the CRC also mentioned that during the actual rioting *'skinheads were seen in the vicinity of the Asian shops'*. Without reading too much into this, it isn't hard to seculate that some of those skinheads may not necessarily have been there to assist their 'Black brothers'. The CRC contact, however, did emphasise that most of the White kids who took part in the rioting, did so not for any perceived racist reasons. In the aftermath of the riots one interesting CRC statistic came to light, namely that the 'majority' of the 291 arrested were not Afro-Caribbean, nor Asian, but allegedly White. The press virtually ignored this information, preferring instead to concentrate on the inter-tribal (sic) tensions between the Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities. Although it is without doubt that in any poorer, unemployed ghetto, the less poorer self-employed can become the target of resentment and a victim of 'petty crime', the national press chose to elevate this aspect more than any other in its post-riot analyses, to the extent that existing tensions between the Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities were further strained and the Asian community representatives have subsequently left the CRC to form another ginger grouping.

The other side of the story was hardly touched upon by Fleet Street. The fact for example, that there were nearly as many young Asians rioting as there were Afro-Caribbeans. The fact that the soft-drugs scene includes Asians too, not just Afro-Caribbeans. The fact that it was an Asian, not an Afro-Caribbean, who was stopped in his car and assaulted by cops and who was then rescued by Rastafarians — this incident being one of the two alleged flashpoints in the lead-up to the riot. Also, incidents, such as that of the Asian shopkeeper whose off-license was protected during the riot by a group of local Afro-Caribbeans when outsiders threatened to burn down the premises where his four children were hiding in fear. All these aspects were ignored.

According to local sources many of the looters were indeed from outside the area; some drove up in cars and were by no means a case of the 'deserving poor expropriating that which was rightly theirs'. The press also made the assumption that it was Afro-Caribbeans who burnt down the post office in Lozells Rd, where two Asians, Kasamali and Armirali Moledina, were killed after the building had been arsoned. (A white youth from a housing estate a quarter of a mile away was later arrested). Had the location been elsewhere — say, Newham in East London, where there has been a spate of arson attacks on Asian families — both the press and the police would have denied that the arson attack was racist; in the Handsworth case, however, they were quick to suggest otherwise, only this time apportioning blame on the Afro-Caribbean community. The fact is that most (how much will never be known) of the burning was carried out in conjunction with the looting, which in itself brought forth an avalance of reasoned justifications across the whole political spectrum, from the polce and the press at one end, to sociologists and trendy lefties on the other. They all agreed that small-time shopkeepers were fair game in the 'class struggle'. Had they been White, however, or running a trendy co-op, well. . . Again, if the disturbances had taken place in sumptuous Bournemouth, for example, the police would have organised themselves quicker than you could utter the words 'mutual aid'. On this latter point, the Handsworth riot clearly exposed the achilles heel of mutual aid policing, in that it can fail under the right circumstances, namely incidents involving mass rioting and guerrilla attacks, preferably simultaneous in different areas. In the future the police will no doubt be reassessing their resources and their intelligence-gathering capabilities. The revival of community policing after the rioting got off to a sad start with the agreement from some Rastafarians to calm things down — although that offer may well have been a tactical move to guarantee a breathing space in advance of any projected 'Swamp '85'. In the long-term the police will be relying on the eyes and ears of their racist friends in the tenants groups and elsewhere to supply the information on a regular basis. Would, we ask, the collaboration stop at information-gathering, and did it ever?

The fascist presence in central Birmingham is by no means insignificant. Many hardliners still live in the areas surrounding Handsworth. Lond-time thugs such as the following. *Richard A. Barnes* (attacked Digbeth SWP bookshop in 1981, aalso implicated in a murder); *Jimmy Carlyle* (contacts with KKK, set up an organisation known as 'White resistance', member of the NF; *John Davis* (Handsworth based NF'er and security guard); *Ray Davison* (known firebomber, member of NF, ex-British Movement); *John*

Continued on back page.



PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS CASE STUDY 3;— MILAN

The pseudo-gang phenomenon is by no means recent or confined to large scale military operations. But perhaps the two most famous cases involving terrorists groups undertaking actions ascribed to revolutionary groups were the December 1969 Milan (and Rome) bombing — the Milan massacre claimed 16 lives and many injured — which resulted in the round up of over 150 Anarchists, culminating in the 'accidental death of' (ie. murder) the Anarchist railway worker and Black Cross Secretary, Guiseppe Pinelli. Pinelli, who during the Second World War had helped in the Resistance and who was more recently active in prisoner support work, was murdered by his police interrogators who then threw his lifeless body out of an 8th storey window.

The bombing had in fact, been carried out by members of the delle Chiaie fascist network. Delle Chiaie and his confederates (specifically a Mario Merlino) were also responsible for bombings in Rome. Merlino had infiltrated the Anarchist movement and 'founded' the 22 March anarchist group along with the genuine Anarchist Pietro Valpreda. When Merlino was arrested he implicated five other members of the group. Two and a half years later the Anarchist's trial was aborted after overwhelming evidence was found against the fascists. . .three associates of delle Chiaie and seven others were arrested and charged with bombing the Milan Agricultural Bank at a peak afternoon period and murdering 16 people. They were also charged with the Rome bombing as well as acts of indiscriminate violence carried out during 1969; some of those arrested later fled the country while out on bail.

More recently bombings aimed at US Army service personnel stationed in West Germany were at first ascribed to the left guerrilla network, the Revolutionary Cells (RZ) but again were later discovered to have been perpetrated by a fascist group who had undertaken the actions partly in an attempt to discredit the RZ, who had been recently involved in a sabotage campaign aimed at military property.

An ongoing case as we publish this is that of Joaquin Gambin who like Merlino in Italy, infiltrated the anarcho-syndicalist movement in Spain and carried out a fire bomb attack on the Scala nightclub shortly after a CNT-AIT demonstration. While Gambin escaped under another identity, several CNT militants were arrested and charged with the fire-bombing. Despite their innocence and the publicity about Gambin's provocateur role they remain in jail. A campaign to get them released and the fascists responsible caught is underway in Spain today.

CASE STUDY 4:— WOODSTOCK ANARCHIST PARTY.

The Woodstock Anarchist (sic) Party was set up as a pacifist/hippy movement and gained quite a following. It came as quite a shock therefore when their leader (and we mean Leader literally), Red Warthan, turned out to be a Ku Klux Klan member.

Warthan was instructed to penetrate the Anarchist movement by the Nazis. Since his youth he had been a member of the Klan. When he was 13 he murdered a 10 year old, but at his trial managed to get an acquittal by 'reason of insanity'.

With this background Warthan knew he would be unable to infiltrate effectively the Anarchists, so he tried the next best thing: he set up his own group. His mistake though was to believe that he should denounce the State propaganda about Anarchists (ie. they're all terrorists) and instead set himself up as a 'pacifist-anarchist' who was interested in the drug scene. Unfortunately Warthan only succeeded in attracting the attention of the Manson clan. Manson thought that Warthan's Wood stock Anarchist Party sounded like something he would like to penetrate, not realising that the set-up was phoney. When Manson eventually won Warthan's confidence and found out that he was a Klan agent, he managed to persuade Warthan to switch allegaince and feed back to him (Manson) information on KKK operations On Manson's instructions Warthan publicly came out with his Nazi past and renounced the 'anarchist' connection. Finally Warthan ended up in jail as a result of killing a 17 year old.

COMMENT

WHAT I SAW AND HEARD IN RUSSIA

I more than know, by means of numerous channels and through experiences in Spain, what a communist regime can be like. Nevertheless, at the request of two friends, Jose and Pepe — both British but of Spanish origin and pro-Russian supporters and enthusiasts, I decided to seek and hear Russia with my own eyes and ears personally. This possibility encouraged me to undertake the adventure, under the guiding hands (of course!) of the official Russian agency 'Intourist'. Even before-hand, one was made aware, by the bureaucratic procedures necessary for obtaining a visa, of the interference of the political police — the fearful KGB.

We arrive on a package tour at the airport, Sheremetievo of Moscow, at one in the morning. During four hours of inquisitory looks and questions we face the Frontier guards of the KGB for more than a quarter of an hour each, which makes one already feel the weight of Soviet bureaucracy and distrust. My friends Jose and Pepe go to the toilet, where ther is just one urinal and one bowl totally dirty and chipped, and return scandalised. The doubts of my two pro-USSR friends, who believe that they have only to step out into Russian soil and find the 'Soviet Paradise', have already begun. After a long wait the 'Intourist' buses take us to the Cosmos hotel which is only for tourists. It is a great surprise for us to be approached by various prostitutes and once inside the bar others offer us their favours, in return for payment in dollars.

Visits to programmed locations begin, to Red Square, the Kremlin, the famous basilica of Saint Basilo, etc. Then the guide, Natacha, commences to point out for us the excellency of the communist regime since the October Revolution of 1917, which she does in perfect English, which we discovered and would continue discovering is the second language in Russia. Another incident occurs when my friends, who are smoking, approach the queue which is some twenty metres from the entrance to Lenin's tomb, two policemen descent upon them, blocking their way and rudely reprimand them, as if they are profaining from afar their God, Saint Lenin. They rapidly throw their cigarettes to the ground, which they would never have done of their own accord, however, the policemen brusquely obliges them to pick them up and to leave. Thus, rejection gradually increases in their minds, almost as soon as reaching the 'homeland of the Proletariat'. There are groups of soldiers everywhere, and the ex-rank and file communist, Pepe, with his Andalucian wit, exclaims 'Well, if they aren't smaller than me!' His height is scarcely 1.60 metres'and they had always taught me how blond and tall Russian soldiers were. . . '

Later in the afternoon, when we go to the Sputnik monument with our cameras on our wrists, the pestering starts up again — for rouble-dollar exchange, for jeans, T-shirts or anything whatsoever as long as it is 'western'. While children are asking us for cigarettes, three young girls approach us offering their favours at the price of fifty dollars. We establish a friendship with a young man of 24, named Ivan, a chauffeur by profession. As usual, he asks for dollars or whatever else is available, we promise to give him a new sports shirt if he comes with us back to the hotel. He fearfully refuses to go but will accompany us to a place nearby. He tells us that he works ten hours a day, including some Saturdays, for a wage of 150 roubles a month, paying 25 roubles a month for rent. His wage represents about £170 a month, which is approximately what the others that work with him earn. Some earn more than him, but they are married and some have children. The chief of his section earns 350 roubles a month — about £360. His greatest wish would be to go abroad, but that is forbidden to the workers. To be able to do this one has to be a party member, or a bureaucrat, or in the administration or of the nomenclature, in other words one of the priviledged or rich. Thus, the great-bulk of the people, which constitutes more than 90% of the population count for nothing. The new Czars of Russia — the reds — have the same idiosyncrasy as their predecessors — pomposity, luxuries material riches of all kinds and that is how it is! While we are with Ivan, three more young boys, scarcely 15 or 16 years old, approach us asking for cigarettes and offering us their charms. On asking Ivan what is happening, he says to us that there is not a lack of money, but that this is a way of obtaining things from the west by barter on the black market because the Russian government doesn't give them anything more than communist instructions and hides the truth about what is beyond its borders from them, telling them that their country is a paradise compared with the chaos of the capitalist countries.

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will take you to the SOVIET UNION this winter.

QUEUES: this deserves a separate chapter, wherever you go there are queues of people, on the corners of streets, itinerant sellers with a few boxes of tomatoes, other queues for melons or lemons at £3.30 a kilo, garlic at £2.10 a kilo, queues for everything, or in other words queue-mania for anything, including, we saw, for imitation jewellery and presents — the pandemonium of the queue. We were able to see for ourselves the resignation of patience of the Russian working population.

Paying no attention to the 'advantages' outlined by the guide of going along with the group on tours of this and that, we guide ourselves by what Felix Bayon says in his book, 'If you want to see something — explore on your own initiative.' We take off on up Peace Avenue, Lenin Avenue and other avenues. We are pestered again in broad daylight — roubles for dollars or whatever is from the West. Take into account that the official exchange rate for the dollar is 85 copers — about 95p — but in the street you can be given up to four roubles — about £4. These people want to buy things from abroad and the black market only deals in dollars.

We decide to eat out, not at the hotel, a useless intention, we trample around streets looking and asking for a restaurant, bar, cafe or anything, this proves impossible since they do not appear to exist. We take a taxi to return to the hotel, halfway there the driver parks his broken-down car and runs to join a queue, after a while he jubilantly returns with a bottle of wine. To 'defect to the West' is an obsession for young people, (which, Felix Bayon in his book *The Old Russian of Gorbachov*, shows very well and amply). That is illustrated by a young student, Gregory, who along with two others tell us, 'My most precious dream would be to get away to the West, because for Russians, freedom, at most, is limited to two square metres.' We invite them to the hotel, at which they took fright because a friend of theirs, who accepted such an offer, was put in a psychiatric asylum for three months. Although they make fun of the police, they are frightened and panic-stricken by the IGB. We take a taxi to go to the Prague restaurant, which they point out to us as a place where one can drink. The taxi-driver, who notices us leave the hotel, tries to get us to pay him in dollars. Nearby two Asian Russian women and a young blond Russian woman, all dressed 'Western Style' invite us, after (as always) asking for dollars, to go to their house. We decline the invitation. Tipping is welcomed in all places — this in a communist country. Jose and Pepe's disillusionment continues to grow, because we are seeking all that we were least expecting. In a shop, which has some groceries, a large queue is in uproar because a woman of sixty has tried to jump the queue, she is reprimanded by the other queuers, they call the KGB police who, hard-faced, order her by signs and nothing else to accompany them and she is arrested.

We are smoking in a place for exhibitions, when a soldier approaches us and asks us for a cigarette, we give him the packet of English tobacco and he can't believe it, he repeats several times, 'Spasiba' (Thank-you). We were not able to strike up a conversation with him as we would have wished. We travel in the Metro, always asking the way, even if only by use of sign-language, of course. We encounter a young black student from Ethiopia, called Muhaddin, who answers us in English, which he is studying as well as Russian at the expense of his Marxist government. He offers to accompany us. To begin with he is reluctant to speak but when he becomes confident and we give him a packet of English tobacco, his eyes light up, as always happens, whether we have dollars or any 'Western' item to give away. He tells us that he is thinking of coming to London next year. As we leave the Metro near the hotel amongst a multitude of people, we witness how the police detain a young woman and some minutes later a young man, who get into the jeep when the police swiftly indicate to them to do so. We ask Mehaddin what is happening in this district — Vdnh, and with a certain timidity he tells us that the bosses of the state, that is to say those who give orders — the 'nuveau riche' live there. We invite him to the hotel, he answers with a rotund 'no'. With each passing day and each hour the Russian communist veil falls gradually away for my good friends Jose and Pepe. They must have a police department inside the hotel, for we see a young man escorted away between two policemen. When we go to enquire about this, since we are only tourists, they amiably invite us to leave. We ask about some government shops — the 'Comisioni', where second hand articles, their prices here twice as expensive as brand new ones in the West, are sold. At 11.30pm we are in the station waiting to take the train to Leningrad. We observe that sitting on the floor against a wall which runs alongside the platforms are hundreds of old people, women and children. We ask the guide why; she replies that they are probably people from elsewhere waiting to catch some train. . .

In the hotel's assembly room, a conference in the form of a 'round table' and a talk by a Russian economist for the tourists takes place. After going over the merits of the communist regime again, he says that they recognise certain mistakes, but that they are gradually putting these right. However, they are not being corroded by the cancer, unemployment, to be found amongst the capitalist regimes.

I asked him if the unions are free to elect their own committees, he took off on some meaningless dribble, arguing that they had delegates (elected by hand) in the elections of the Party congresses and blah, blah. . .

Our seven day stay in the Russia of the new Czars is reaching its conclusion and although many more anecdotes are abundant — these are things and events which would make this chronicle much more longer. We are in Leningrad Airport ready to leave for London. The past odyssey is worthy of mention: The money which you declared upon arrival has to coincide with that upon exit, if you take out a single paper rouble note you risk serious inconveniences. There are long queues, verification of luggage, a revision pound by pound of what you are carrying, a detailed inspection of passport and visa. They were somewhat more benevolent with British passport holders than with an Indian, three Brasilians, Jose and me. They became enraged, made an inventory of everying, carried out a personal frisking and shut me off in a room where they examined every object, every piece of paper, etc., and looked at the few notes which I had made, which were in Spanish. There were various comings and goings in order to decipher them. Although I was calm because it seemed to me that I had nothing to fear, a certain uneasiness gradually overtook me. A sergeant arrived, after more whispering a lieutenant also appeared and they commented on the word 'Comisioni' and its address amongst themselves. I suppose that they were saying something like as follows: 'As a tourist he has left the programmed route and has seen what we did not want him to see!' . . . In the end I and the others were retained for some twenty-five minutes. I read in the Spanish press that the 'factotum' of the pro-Russian communist party in Spain, Ignacio Gallego and the French Marcharais had an interview with Gorbachov and that he had taken them to visit fixed places. Were they able (one wonders), to explore on their own account the great mass of the Russian people as we had done?

When we were able to embark upon our trip, and having been introduced to my friend Pepe, he said, 'There in Russia, I don't believe that I'm going to see Libertarian Communism, there I will see Socialism.' And he said this to me with pride and a sureness of the Soviet paradise.

The result being, that when we had already returned, my good friends, Jose and Pepe, with the following textual words, said, 'We are becoming convinced that communism in Russia is a great lie and that from today we are anti that type of communism that exists in Russia.'

Manuel Manrique

(Article translated from the Spanish).

